

to enact, on a bipartisan basis, meaningful campaign finance reform to clean up a system which has gotten completely out of control and which undermines both the operation and reputation of our entire national government. I think President Carter and Vice President Mondale would certainly agree, and I commend their observations to my colleagues.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LETTS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Lansing, MI's most outstanding citizens who recently passed away, Richard Letts. Because of his tremendous commitment and involvement in many organizations throughout the community, Mr. Letts became affectionately known as Mr. Lansing.

Mr. Letts' life, even while fighting a battle against cancer, was a tribute to the human spirit. Whether as a champion athlete, a 27-year career as Lansing's human relations director or a community leader in volunteer organizations such as Boy Scouts, United Way, Old Newsboys, United Negro College Fund, Boys and Girls Club, Urban League, and Lions Club just to name a few, Richard Letts was a dominating figure in Lansing's landscape. Yet even as he struggled with his health, the people of Lansing gave tributes, proclamations, speeches, and parades to a man who so often became the comforter, as people came to comfort him.

Olivia Letts, Richard's wife of 46 years, has said, "People don't change who they are when they become ill." Indeed, Mr. Letts refused to quit. His message in his life, and our future: Race should not matter, color should not matter, all people matter. Richard Letts mattered to Lansing and all of Michigan. The loss of his presence will be mourned, but the mark his life left on Lansing is permanent.●

POSITION ON CLOTURE VOTES ON H.R. 2646 AND DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I was not present for the cloture votes on October 31, 1997. I would like to record my position, had I been present for the votes.

Had I been present for the cloture vote on H.R. 2646, the Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools, I would have opposed cloture. In addition to the many serious public policy implications raised by this legislation, as a member of the Senate Finance Committee I have serious concerns about the virtually unprecedented manner in which it was brought to the floor. After H.R. 2646 was approved by the House it was sent directly to the desk, where it was pulled from and sent to the floor—completely bypassing the Finance Committee where virtually all tax legislation is reviewed.

The lack of review is particularly distressing given the budget implica-

tions of H.R. 2646—it would increase spending by \$4 billion over 10 years. It is both shortsighted and unwise to make major modifications in the Tax Code without review by the committee of jurisdiction and without first asking a simple question: Are these IRA's our highest priority for educational funding? To my way of thinking, that question has not been addressed.

When this bill was immediately considered under a cloture strategy, all ability to make any changes in this policy were blocked. That is simply unacceptable. This legislation should be considered under a less restricted approach. In keeping with the customary Senate approach we should conduct a thorough debate with ample opportunity for amendments. Anything less should be rejected.

I should also note my absence for the cloture vote on the Defense authorization conference report. Cloture was invoked in an overwhelming vote. Had I been present, I too would have cast my vote in favor of cloture.

Mr. President, there are many demands made on the time of a Senator. Few are as important or as rewarding as being a part of the life of our school children. And on last Friday, when presented with a choice between keeping important commitments to Montana students or procedural votes in the Senate, I faced a difficult decision. And while I take my responsibilities here in Washington very seriously, I decided that I needed to be with these Montana students on this occasion. And in this particular instance my votes would not have affected the ultimate outcome of either vote.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL URBAN KILEY

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel Urban Kiley of Charlotte, VT, recipient of a 1997 National Medal of Arts. The National Medal of Arts is our Nation's highest honor in the arts, recognizing individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States. Mr. Kiley is the first landscape architect to be honored with this prestigious award.

Mr. Kiley, 84, has been called "the most celebrated landscape architect of this century". His many works include the setting for Dulles International Airport, the grounds for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, the interior and exterior landscapes for the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art, and the Navy Pier in Chicago. Yet, despite his work all over the world, Mr. Kiley has stayed in close touch with the people and landscapes of Vermont. His work can be seen at Twin Farms Inn in Barnard, VT, the Lake Champlain Basin Region, and even at my own farm in Shrewsbury.

Daniel Kiley's works have been likened to "a walk through nature," re-

flecting his central tenet that designs should grow out of a landscape, not be forced upon it. His designs have been sought out by the leading modern architects and his unique vision celebrated and taught throughout the world.

In addition to his long career as a landscape architect, Mr. Kiley served as an Army Captain in World War II. He was selected by President Truman and General Eisenhower to find a site to try the Nazi War criminals, and his selection of Nuremberg as the site as well as his courtroom design earned him the Decorated Legion of Merit.

Once again, I rise to honor Mr. Kiley's many contributions and accomplishments, far too numerous to list today. As a Vermonter, and as one of the millions of Americans who have enjoyed Daniel Kiley's designs, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations on his receiving the National Medal of Arts, and I wish him many more years of continued success.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEAGAN CORLIN AND ALIA SZOPA

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate two outstanding youths, Meagan Corlin and Alia Szopa, who are the 1997 honorees from New Hampshire for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Prudential Insurance Co. of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honor outstanding, self-initiated community service by young people in middle and high school grades.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, the country's largest youth recognition program based solely on community service, were created in 1995 following a nationwide survey of high school students. The survey indicated that while 95 percent of teenagers believe community volunteer work is important, a large proportion don't know how to get involved and lack role models that could inspire them to seek out volunteer opportunities. As a former high school teacher, I am well aware of the importance of empowering students with volunteer opportunities.

Meagan and Alia have both created innovative community service programs to serve various needs in their respective communities.

Meagan Corlin, from Strafford School in Center Strafford, NH, created a reading program called Story-time on the Road to share her love of books with others. She uses her title as Miss New Hampshire Pre-Teen to promote her program to day care centers, libraries, elderly housing facilities, and homeless shelters. Each week, she and several of her schoolmates travel to these various locations in order to read stories to children or to the elderly.

Alia Szopa, from Central High School in Manchester, NH, created a dance program called Legato for pre-teen